IIT, Kanpur, Shri Ramakrishnan, Sr. Director, MIT and Dr. Michale Best, MIT Media Lab, USA.

The Head Quarters of Media Lab Asia is located in Mumbai in one of the Industrial Parks.

The process of acquiring identifying research nodes, their space procurement of equipment of the initial people, refinement of projects and procurement of equipment for research activities is in progress. The first board meeting was held on 27th September, 2001.

Smart Card

538. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had set up a group for examining the standards and identifying the sectors for smart card applications in India;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have accepted the recommendations; and

(e) if so, by what time final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir . A Committee has been set up to formulate common standards for multi-application smart cards in India.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Restriction on membership of the trade unions

539. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to restrict membership of the trade unions to employees only and restrict outside members in trade unions; and

(b) if so, by when, a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) (a) and (b) The Trade Unions (Amendment) Bill, 2001 has been passed by the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha on 2.8.2001 and 24.8.2001 respectively. The Hon'ble President has given assent on 3.9.2001 and the Trade